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Donovan Waits Word on His Return to Cuba

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SYRACUSE, N. Y.

"Time is of the essence,"

James B. Donovan said yesterday in announcing he was awaiting imminent word on whether he could return to Cuba to negotiate release of 1,113 Cuban-invasion prisoners.

Mr. Donovan told a news conference speed was necessary because "the entire situation is so explosive."

The Democrat, who is campaigning against Sen. Jacob K. Javits, Republican, for election to the U. S. Senate, said he was up half the night talking by telephone with various persons working to free the prisoners. His activity, he said, was prompted by a message received in Ithaca last night from Alfredo Sanchez, chairman of the Cuban Families Committee for liberation of prisoners of war.

Mr. Donovan did not disclose what he heard "in the interest of the mission."